



BOROUGH OF ABERGAVENNY.

1946



**REPORT ON THE SANITARY
CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH**

prepared by the
Medical Officer of Health,
H. L. S. GRIFFITHS,
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)



**THE 64TH
ANNUAL REPORT**

Dover & Co., Abergavenny



BOROUGH OF ABERGAVENNY.

1946



REPORT ON THE SANITARY
CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH

prepared by the
Medical Officer of Health,
H. L. S. GRIFFITHS,
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)



THE 64TH
ANNUAL REPORT

Dover & Co., Abergavenny

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.



Councillor G. H. TRANTER (Chairman).

THE MAYOR (Alderman MAX L. BEVERIDGE).

Alderman W. HORSINGTON.

Councillors J. S. BOUSFIELD.

B. R. GRIFFITHS.

E. REES.

F. T. ROSSER.

Medical Officer's Report for 1946.

MR. MAYOR, AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg herewith to present the Sixty-Fourth Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions of Abergavenny, which is based on the Ministry of Health Circular 13/47 (Wales).

Statistics.		1938	1945	1946
Area (in Acres)		2,398	2,398	2,398
Population (estimated)		7,925	8,275	8,439
Inhabited Houses (according to Rate Books)		2,366	2,314	2,310
Rateable Value		£49,304	£51,222	£51,395
Id. Rate		£188	£198	£201

Social conditions, including chief industries carried on in the area, and the extent of unemployment:

The area of the Borough is 2,398 acres, but the added area is mostly rural in character, and includes most of the Sugar Loaf Mountain where are situated the Borough Reservoir, Pumping Station, Springs, etc.

Abergavenny is a prosperous County Town with large Cattle, Fruit, Farm and Produce Markets. It is also a Live Stock Grading Centre for the Ministry of Food.

It is a centre of the L.M.S. Railway, and is also served by the G.W. Railway, and a good service of Motor Buses is run in all directions to and from the Borough and adjoining villages and Towns.

There is one large Printing Factory and three smaller ones, one Engineering Works and Foundry, and one manufacturing Confectionery, with some small light industries.

The unemployment figure for Abergavenny and District with a population of some 16,000 showed a weekly average of 33 per week, or a weekly rate of '002 per 1,000.

The Shops in the town are numerous, and cater not only for the town folk, but those of the large surrounding districts. The prosperity of the Borough as a whole is greatly affected by the prosperity of the Industrial Districts adjoining.

There is no particular occupation that adversely affects the Public Health of the Borough.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Total 1946		M.	F.	1946 Borough County		
Live Births—						
Legitimate	129	66	63	} Birthrate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	17'5	19'9
Illegitimate	18	9	9			

Still Births—						
Legitimate ...	4	3	1	} Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Stillbirths) Births ... Rate per 1,000 popul'n	26'5 — 0'47 0'64	— — — —
Illegitimate ...		Nil				

Deaths—						
All Causes ...	110	50	60	} Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	13'0	11'7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—					
Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil	} Rate per 1,000 births (Live and Stillborn)...	Nil	0'16
Other Puerperal Causes	...	1		6.5	2'03
Total			...	6'5	2'19
Total			...	1	

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—						
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births				...	40'8	47'6
Legitimate	,,			Legitimate Live Births	46'5	—
Illegitimate	,,			Illegitimate ,, ...	Nil	—

Deaths from Cancer—all ages...M 16. F 10. Total 26.
Average age 63'2

Measles	...	...	Nil
Whooping Cough	...	...	Nil
Diarrhoea, under 2 yrs. of age	...	...	Nil
Children under 1 yr.	Total 6.	Legitimate 6	Illegitimate Nil
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	...	4	
Non-Pulmonary...	...	Nil	
			— Total 4.

Ages of Deaths of Children under one year of age—

Under 1 week	...	...	5	}	5
1 to 2 weeks	...	...	—		
2 to 3 „	...	...	—		
3 to 4 „	...	...	—		
1 to 3 months	...	...	—	}	1
3 to 6 „	...	...	—		
6 to 9 „	...	...	1		
9 to 12 „	...	...	—		
Total under 1 year			...		<u>6</u>

Year.	Populations.	Live Births.	Deaths.	Birth Rate.
1931 ...	8490 (Estimated)			
	8608 (Census)	... 137	119	16'10
1938 ...	7925 (New Borough)...	115	108	14'50
1939 ...	7832 „	... 118	144	15'10
1940 ..	8407 „	... 122	149	14'50
1941 ...	8769 „	... 130	135	14'60
1942 ...	8468 „	... 134	113	18'80
1943 ...	8174 „	... 127	122	15'56
1944 ...	7931 „	... 139	104	17'50
1945 ...	8275 „	... 141	120	17'0
1946 ...	8439 „	... 147	110	17'5

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever. In September, 1945, a sharp Scarlet Fever Epidemic started and continued into 1946. 6 cases notified. No deaths.

Whooping Cough. Three cases were notified. There were no deaths.

Measles. Nil.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis. Nil.

Erysipelas. Nil.

Diphtheria. Nil.

Immunisation has been encouraged in all possible ways.

Number immunised in 1946	...	Age 1 — 5	...	135
		Age 5—15	...	50
Total				185

13 other children had Refresher Injections.

Tuberculosis.

Notified : Pulmonary M 4. F 2. Non-Pulmonary M— F 2

Deaths : „ M— F 4. „ M— F—

Influenza. No severe epidemic. No deaths.

Notifiable Infectious Disease (other than Tuberculosis)
classified according to age groups.

Disease.	Total	Age 0—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	Over 25	Treated in Hosp'l
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	6	...	5	1	...	...	2
C.S. Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	3	3	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever (Para B)	1	...	...	...	1	...	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1946.

AGE.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
20—30	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
30—40	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	...
40—50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
50—60	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
60—70	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	4	2	...	2		4	...	...

H. L. S. GRIFFITHS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Water.

The Water is maintained in a pure state by chlorination. 15 samples of treated water were taken for bacteriological examination and 1 for chemical analysis. 5 bacteriological samples were found to be unsatisfactory. Necessary adjustments to the chlorine content were made immediately and satisfactory results were obtained. 3 samples were taken from a private raw supply in the added area and was found to be unsatisfactory.

Of 2,310 houses in the Borough, 2217 houses representing a population of 8,120, are supplied direct to the houses, while 93 houses with 319 population, receive their water by standpipes.

There is no plumbo-solvency, and due to the prolonged periods of wet weather, the quantity adequate. In view of the proposed increase in the number of houses, a scheme for the provision of a further source of supply is being developed by the local Authority.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(3) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	474
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...			501
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which are inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulation, 1925	...	...	...	379
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...			417
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	8
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	35

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequences of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	110
--	-----	-----	-----

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :

- (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 1
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By Owners ... 1
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil.
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 1
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ... 1
 - (a) By Owners ... 1
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil.
- (c) Proceedings under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1930 :
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil.
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil.
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1930 :
- (1) Number of separate tenements of underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil.
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

The following table shows the Inspector's work regarding the eradication of bed bugs.

(a) Number of Council Houses :

(1)	Found infested	...	...	Nil.
(11)	Disinfested	...	...	Nil.

(b) Number of other Houses :

(1)	Found infested	...	...	3
(11)	Disinfested	...	...	3

These houses were visited either in normal house-to-house inspections or as a result of complaints from the tenant.

Excellent results have been obtained by cleaning and scrubbing, carried out systematically with soap and water. In addition, sulphur fumigation and insecticide sprays were used.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

Milk Supply—

8 visits have been made to Cowsheds and Dairies.

9 samples of milk were taken and 7 were found unsatisfactory. The matter was taken up with the retailer and producer, and was also referred to the responsible Authority.

Meat and other Foods—

The Local Authority Abattoir, which was taken over by the Ministry of Food, serves the district of Abergavenny, Crickhowell, Bwlch, Nantyerry and Gobion. A 100% inspection is maintained by the Sanitary Inspector.

The following tables showing the number killed, particulars of meat condemnations and incidence of disease.

Number Killed :

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
817	567	7,066	1,569

Number Inspected :

817	567	7,066	1,569
-----	-----	-------	-------

Total inspected—10,019.

All Diseases except Tuberculosis :

Whole carcasses condemned—

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
14	2	40	2

Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned—

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
120	2	942	5

Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis—11·2%

Tuberculosis Only :

Whole carcase condemned—

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
11	—	—	50

Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned—

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
80	—	—	130

Percentage of the number of animals killed affected with Tuberculosis—1·43%

Percentage of the number of cattle killed affected with Tuberculosis—11·12%

Other Foods condemned were as follows :

46 Tins Baked Beans ; 92 Cubes, 2 Bottles Beef Extract ; 14lbs., 28 Pkts Breakfast Cereals ; 5 Tins Broth ; 3lbs. Butter ; 144 Tins C.C. Beef ; 16 Tins C.C. Mutton ; 1 Tin Carrots ; 45lbs. Dates ; 105 Tins, 49 Stones Fresh Fish ; 1 Tin Fruit ; 4 Pkts Flour (Cake) ; 692lbs. Flour ; 1 Bottle Gravy Browning ; 1 Tin Health Salts ; 62 Tins, 1 Jar Jam ; 62 Tins Meat ; 116lbs. Imported Meat ; 1,047 Tins Evaporated Milk ; 10lbs. Macaroni ; 16 Tins Mustard ; 4 Tins Paste ; 27 Tins Peas ; 9 Bottles Pickles ; 100lbs. Prunes ; 30lbs. Raisins ; 1 Bottle Sauce ; 12lbs. Sausage Meat ; 33lbs. Shrimps ; 9 Tins Soup ; 3 Tins Syrup ; 61lbs. Sugar ; 2 Tins Tomatoes ; 105lbs. Oranges.

Inspection of Places where Food is prepared.

Restaurant Kitchens :— Including Licensed Premises where food is prepared, there are 11 in the Borough.

Fish Frying and Chip Potato Shops :—There are 3 in the Borough, and these are regularly visited by the Sanitary Inspector, who reports favourably as to their condition and absence of nuisance.

Bakehouses :—9 premises were in use during the year.

12 visits were made during the year.

3 notices of repairs and lime-washing, etc., were served.

The conditions generally were satisfactory.

Butchers :— Small goods, including brawn, polonies, pies, faggots, etc., were prepared at 9 Butchers' establishments. At the Butchers' establishments the work is carried out in a special room, and electric power is available. All the premises are regularly visited by the Inspector, and the condition found to be satisfactory.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

26 visits were made. 1 Informal Notice and 1 Verbal Notice was given, and complied with.

RAINFALL IN 1946.

Rain Gauge ... $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Diameter of Funnel, 5 inches} \\ \text{Height of Top} \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Above Ground 1 ft.} \\ \text{,, Sea Level 215 ft.} \end{array}$
Situation :—Bailey Park.

Month.	Total Depth Inches		
January	...	...	4'3
February	...	...	1'3
March	...	...	1'2
April	...	...	2'1
May	...	...	5'0
June	...	...	2'1
July	...	...	2'4
August	...	...	6'5
September	...	...	5'4
October	...	...	1'5
November	...	...	9'0
December	...	...	4'3
Total	...	...	<u>45'1</u>

R. J. HOWELLS, Cert. S.I.B., I.M. & O.F.



